

Field Trip to the Woodcreek Nature Center

Greetings WNC Visitors,

We are excited to be running two shows almost everyday this spring. We welcome our many first timers to the preserve and we will do our best to make your visit educational and fun. Two shows everyday, however, means things will be a little chaotic around 10:45, when one tour is ending and a new group of students is showing up. Please keep this in mind. We don't want to mix up lunch supplies or kids!

Preparing for your trip . . .

Trail Groups

When we first start the show, we will be dividing you up into **two** groups. Then when we start the hike we will subdivide the group again into **3** more trail groups. For example, if three classes come together, we will separate them into two groups (A and B) of about 30 kids. Each group will go to a different staging area for the sit down part of the program. Then the A and B groups will be further divided into 3 small sub-groups before we go out on our hike . Hence, we will have 6 groups of 5-10 kids each when we are walking the trail. It speeds things up if you have already determined who will be in each group ahead of time.

Journals

Please have students make a journal to write in (If you don't make the journals, have your students wear name tags please). There are two attachments to help you with the journals. One attachment gives directions for making the journal. The "tracks" attachment is a page of animal tracks that should be included as a page in the students' journals. Remind them to have pencils so they can write in their journals on the hike. We do move the students pretty quickly from habitat to habitat, so we don't always have enough time to let them write as much as they want. If you believe the journals are not valuable or practical for the younger students to use, then we will make do without them.

Facilities

Tell students and parents that they will be walking on dirty and possibly muddy paths, so wear appropriate shoes. There aren't any drinking fountains or restrooms along the path. Students can eat lunch at the end of the field trip at the picnic tables behind the Roseville Aquatics Complex. There are drinking fountains, and garbage cans near the picnic site. There are restrooms at the back gate of the Aquatics Complex. **Teachers/ chaperones are responsible for supervising students that are using the restrooms in the pool area.**

Arrival

If your show starts at 9:30, please arrive by 9:15. If your show starts at 11:10, please arrive by 10:55. Buses should unload and pick up at the bus loading zone in front of Woodcreek High School (just past the Aquatics Complex parking lot). If you are arriving by private vehicle, you can park in the Aquatics Complex parking lot (on the far right hand side is best). On the north side (right side if looking at entrance) of the Aquatics Complex is a parking lot and bike trail. Go west on the bike trail until you get to a picnic area behind the Complex (by the tennis courts). Docents will meet you at the picnic area and escort you out to the preserve. You can leave your lunch items at the picnic site. Only once in 7 years has anyone tampered with the lunches, so they should be safe. If another class is using the picnic tables, there are plenty of grassy knolls around the tennis courts on which to sit.

Late Arrivals

If you arrive late (and we had many schools arrive 15-20 min. late for the early program last year), we will need to drop some part of the program to be able to end on time. You can help us decide what to eliminate from the show that day. I want you to be happy and sometimes I drop the puppet show and then the teachers are mad that the kids didn't get to see it. Sometimes I don't drop anything and rush the kids from station to station and then the teachers are upset about how fast we went. So, if you arrive late, be prepared to miss something in the program and you can help decide what we eliminate.

Evaluations

The entire program takes about an hour and 25 minutes. We will escort you back to the picnic area at that time and you are welcome to stay and have lunch if you wish. The docents will give you and the chaperones an evaluation at the end of the tour to complete. I use the evaluations to help me determine the students' grades, so please be accurate and honest when filling them out. Also, if you have suggestions to help us improve, please tell us on that form. I have received some great suggestions from visitors over the years. We want to keep improving and with your help, we will.

Rain

We have done our shows under sprinkles and down pours. Sprinkles we can deal with—bring umbrellas, or rain ponchos/garbage bags. The heavy rain just makes everyone miserable and the animals take cover too, so it is just best to cancel on those days. If rain is in the forecast, you can call me the morning of your tour and we can make a final decision before you head onto the bus. I think we have had one class every year that ends up out on the trail when the sky unloads on us. I sometimes have a couple of dates available for rain makeup days for those that want to reschedule.

If you have any questions, please e-mail me or call (771-6565 ext. 4501)

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